

the DNC and the White House in their effort to get Interior to deny the Hudson casino application. As recounted above in the Review of the Evidence, on multiple occasions while lobbying against the casino, opponent tribal representatives intentionally made a direct link between campaign contributions to Democrats or the Democratic Party and the outcome of the Hudson casino decision at Interior. The opponent tribes' representatives also made such a link time and again in strategy memoranda concerning how best to defeat the Hudson casino proposal, including memoranda that were provided to Members of Congress.⁷⁵⁴ When the leaders and representatives of the tribal opponents met with DNC National Chair Donald Fowler on April 28, 1995, they made clear that they had contributed and would contribute to the DNC and the Democrats, and they hoped that their past and future support would persuade Fowler to assist their effort to get the casino application denied. They were not disappointed, as they successfully enlisted Fowler to contact Interior and the White House about Hudson. As one contemporaneous memorandum states, the message the tribal opponents gave to Fowler at the

⁷⁵⁴Representatives of the opponent tribes again made the link between campaign contributions and the defeat of the Hudson casino decision after the application was defeated. In a letter to tribal leaders dated Sept. 14, 1995, lobbyists Larry Kitto and Patrick O'Connor stated:

The first eight months of the Republican controlled Congress have been difficult times for tribes across the country. Unquestionably, tribal governments will need to call upon the Clinton administration, and the President himself, to assert leadership and assist tribes through the difficult 1996 budget process and to help fend off attacks on tribal gaming. *As witnessed in the fight to stop the Hudson Dog Track proposal, the Office of the President can and will work on our behalf when asked to do so.*

(Emphasis added.) The letter solicited ticket purchases at a cost of \$1,000 each for a Clinton/Gore '96 presidential dinner on Sept. 26 in Washington, and made reference to an upcoming vice presidential dinner in October. Records show that three Hudson opponents contributed to the September event, with the Mille Lacs paying \$500 and the Prairie Island and Upper Sioux tribes (and Kitto) donating \$1,000 each.